

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 09224 071650Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 STR-04 TRSE-00

OMB-01 CIEP-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15

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R 061210Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8222

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, OECD, PO, SP

SUBJECT: RECENT IMPORT RESTRICTION MEASURES

REF: USMISSION OECD PARIS 35694

1. THE EMBASSY NOTES THE RECOMMENDATION IN PARA 2 OF REFTEL THAT THE US SUGGEST AT THE DECEMBER 13 TCWP MEETING A FULL SCALE EXAMINATION OF SPANISH IMPORT SURCHARGES. WE DO NOT FEEL OURSELVES COMPETENT TO COMMENT ON WHETHER SUCH CONSULTATIONS ARE JUSTIFIED BY THE SPANISH ACTIONS IN RAISING THEIR TARIFFS. HOWEVER, WE WONDER WHY WE FEEL IT NECESSARY TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN CALLING FOR CONSULTATIONS AND WHETHER GETTING OUT IN FRONT ON THIS IS POLITIC IN TERMS OF OUR RELATIONS WITH SPAIN. WE ENJOY AN ENORMOUS TRADE SURPLUS (ABOUT \$1.8 BILLION IN 1975) WITH SPAIN, AND THIS FACT COUPLED WITH US ACTIONS OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS TO RESTRAIN IMPORTS FROM SPAIN HAVE BEEN THE CAUSE OF SOME STRAIN IN OUR RELATIONS.

2. WE DO NOT MEAN TO SUGGEST THAT WE SHOULD IGNORE THE SPANISH ACTIONS NOR OPPOSE CONSULTATIONS, BUT IT

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PAGE 02 MADRID 09224 071650Z

DOES SEEM TO US THAT WE MIGHT CEDE THE LEADING ROLE

ON THIS TO OTHER OECD MEMBERS WHO ENJOY LESS ROBUST
BENEFITS FROM TRADE WITH SPAIN.STABLER

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